

Red Wing Community Planning Session on Homelessness and Housing Instability: Summary of Community Discussion #1

- On Monday, October 4, a group of over thirty engaged citizens and stakeholders met to discuss the issue of homelessness and housing instability in the City of Red Wing.
- After welcomes and introductions, participants learned about the current project and received an overview of the Study of Homelessness that was recently completed. Slides from the 10/4 meeting and other background materials are attached to this email and available online [LINK].
- Participants then broke into small groups to discuss the following questions: What are the values and characteristics of an effective homeless response system? What would a Housing First-focused homeless response system look like in Red Wing?
- Notes from the meeting, including the small group breakouts, have been summarized into a document outlining a vision for ending homelessness in Red Wing.
- Some ideas generated at the meeting fell into the category of specific strategies to address homelessness/housing instability. These ideas have been collected into a document that will include a running list of potential strategies which we will revisit as the planning moves along.
- Next steps:
 - Participants were invited to work group sessions to take place before the next large group meeting. At the work groups, we will begin using a person-centered approach to map out the existing homeless response system in Red Wing. Meetings will be held virtually at the dates and times listed below and are open to anyone. Please contact ali@northstarpolicymn.com for a link to the meeting.
 - Supportive/affordable housing: Monday, October 25, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM
 - Emergency Shelter: Thursday, October 28, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
 - Homeless prevention/crisis response: Friday, October 22, 10:00 AM – 11:30
 - The large group will reconvene on Monday, November 1, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM at 419 Bush St. We will be continuing the mapping exercises from the work groups, and specifically looking at how the current system aligns with the overall vision.
- Materials to review
 - The homeless study and information about meetings are available here: <http://mn-redwing.civicplus.com/1072/Homelessness-and-Housing-Instability>
 - Learn more about “[Functional Zero](#)” as a standard for ending homelessness.
 - Watch a video on [Racial Inequality and Homelessness](#)
 - Learn more about [Housing First](#)